infrastructure including durable assets at the village level to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is the generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas.

Model villages in the States

2892. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that Government are developing model villages in all the States;

(b)if so, the details of the selected villages, State-wise;

(c) whether Soalkuchi village in Kamrup District of Assam has been selected among such villages as a centre of silk industry;

(d) if so, the details of schemes finalised for the same, amount released so far and stage of implementation of such schemes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A, RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Technology Mission on Cotton

2893. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that Government have launched technology mission on cotton;

(b)if so, what are the salient features of the mission; and

(c) what are the objectives and the targets set ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Technology Mission on Cotton Development comprises four Mini Missions with the